

08-219,280

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The invention identifies the B7 antigen as a ligand
5 that is reactive with the CD28 receptor on T cells. Fragments
and derivatives of the B7 antigen and CD28 receptor, including
fusion proteins having amino acid sequences corresponding to
the extracellular domains of B7 or CD28 joined to amino acid
sequences encoding portions of human immunoglobulin C γ 1, are
10 described. Methods are provided for using B7 antigen, its
fragments and derivatives, and the CD28 receptor, its
fragments and derivatives, as well as antibodies and other
molecules reactive with B7 antigen and/or the CD28 receptor,
to regulate CD28 positive T cell responses, and immune
15 responses mediated by T cells. The invention also includes an
assay method for detecting ligands reactive with cellular
receptors mediating intercellular adhesion.

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